

Bicycle

Level 3

Ian Calkins Bicycle Club

About different brakes

Brakes are one of the most important parts on your bike, ensuring they are clean and working properly is key to safe cycling. Faulty brakes could cause you to fall over because you can't stop in time before you hit something or someone.

What brakes are most popular? Rim Brakes are most common on bikes. These are cheaper, but have been used for many years. Rim Brakes require to be checked and adjusted often to ensure they are working properly.

What brakes are best? Most people say Disc Brakes are best. They require little to no maintenance and have shorter stopping distances. They are a little more pricey but worth it!!

There are three main kinds of brakes, Rim, Drum, and Disc.

Rim Brakes



The most popular kind is Rim brakes. Rim brakes will have cables coming from hand levers on the handlebars going to the brake itself, one on the front wheel, and the other for the rear wheel. These brakes have 2 brake shoes that will squeeze the Rim of the wheel causing it to slow down, the harder you squeeze the handle, the faster you stop.

Disc brakes also use handles connected to cables going to each wheel. As you squeeze the handle the cables are pulled, causing small brake shoes to compress on the disc that is connected to the wheel, causing it to stop.



Disc Brakes

Drum Brakes



Drum brakes, like the others, use hand levers pulling a cable, directed to the center of the wheel, or Hub, of the bicycle wheel. Pushes or compresses on either the outer part of the drum, or it compresses on the axle causing friction and reduced speed.